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4. A typical globular cluster at a distance of 30,000 light-years has an angular diameter of about $5'$. Suppose it placed in a spiral nebula that is assumed to be at a distance 100 times as great. Then its integrated magnitude of 18 to 20, its diffuse outline, and its apparent diameter of $3''$ would simulate very well the small nebulous condensations of spirals. The Magellanic Clouds, if located in the same nebula, would show very irregular outlines, would subtend mean diameters of approximately $30''$ and $100''$, and, because of their bright-line nebulae, might appear blue compared with the solar type nucleus.

HARLOW SHAPLEY.

## NOTE ON THE SPECTRUM OF NOVA PERSEI, NO. 2.

The spectrum of *Nova Persei* No. 2 was photographed on September 10, 1914, with the slitless quartz spectrograph attached to the Crossley reflector. The record, which is faint, shows a continuous spectrum extending with great uniformity far into the ultra violet. There are four weak and comparatively broad emission bands corresponding roughly in position with $H\delta$, $H\gamma$, $H\beta$ and $\lambda$ 469$\mu\mu$, the latter being the brightest. The spectrum being without comparison the positions of these bands can not be determined with certainty, but there is little reason to question the identities suggested.

W. H. WRIGHT.

## NOTE ON THE BINARY STAR $\beta$ 1026.

In 1888 Burnham found the 6.5 magnitude star in R. A. $0^h\ 6^m\ 53^s$; Decl. $+53^\circ\ 4'$ (1900.0) to be double, the two components being of equal brightness. His measures on 4 nights gave the relative position as

1888.76 $329^\circ.6$ $0''.48$.

Measures in the next 17 years showed slow direct orbital motion, but in recent years it has been increasing and the star at present is a very difficult one to measure. This is shown by the following measures, made with the 36-inch refractor:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1914.67 | $27^\circ.2$ | $0''.17$ | 3 nights. |
| 1917.70 | $57^\circ.2$ | $0''.14$ | 2 nights. |

It is possible that the period may prove to be comparatively short.

ROBERT G. AITKEN.

September, 1917.